Havala Phone Racket

876. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "US firms in Rupees 1,000 crore havala phone racket" appearing in the "Financial Express", New Delhi dated the 2nd September, 1994;

(b) if so, the genesis of this havala phone racket;

(c) why it could not be detected in time by the Department of Telecommunications ;

(d) the remedial measures which have been taken to check this racket resulting in serious loss of foreign exchange to the country; and

(e) whether any investigation had been ordered to fix responsibility on the Departmental officials involved in this racket; if so, what and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, Governments' attention has been drawn to the news item.

(b) to (e) The matter is under examination and the details of findings as well as the action taken will be laid on the table of the House at the earliest.

Privatisation of postal services

877. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering privatising the postal services;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the privatisation programme of the post offices; and

(c) if not, what is the reason for not privatising the post offices when in many of the foreign and developed countries there are private postal services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI CATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to privatise Postal Services in the country. While in a number of countries, postal services have been corporatised, Government does not have any information about the postal services having been privatised in any country. Government have not taken any final view on the recommendation of the Post Office Act review Committee to partially relax existing exclusive privilege of the Central Government to carry letters.

C-DOT Technology

878. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 18000 telecom exchanges spread over the country, around 14500 have C-DOT technology;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for sudden idling of the facilities by Government through denial of orders and

(c) whether the C-DOT is being discriminated in the new Telecom Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM):(a) Sir, the total number of telephone exchanges in the country is about 19000, out of which about 9860 are of C-DOT technology.